

NBC BRIEFING

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18 January 1955

SOVIET ATOMIC ENERGY OFFERS

- I. In last few days, USSR has made two dramatic announcements on atomic energy.
 - A. First, stated that knowledge gained from operation Soviet atomic power station, (allegedly working since summer '54) will be submitted to UN conference of scientists which meets in August.
 - B. Next, announced that both fissionable material and scientific know-how being offered to five Orbit states which have furnished raw materials for Soviet program (Communist China, East Germany, Czechoslovakia, Rumania and Poland) thus allowing them join in "peaceful" development atomic energy.
 1. These five nations will receive research equipment (such as cyclotrons), technical aid in building small experimental reactors, and fissionable materials necessary to power the reactors.
 2. This announcement important because it appears to match US offer of fissionable material to nations participating in US "atom pool" plan.
- II. Purposes of Soviet moves threefold:
 - A. Regain propaganda initiative lost as result of US "atom pool" plan, by dramatic "proof" USSR's ability outstrip West in peaceful application atomic energy.

1. Moscow propaganda can contrast its offers with alleged US stockpiling of nuclear weapons.

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B. To clear way for possible rival Soviet "atoms-for-peace" plan on international scale.

- 1. Moscow has always insisted Communist China be included in any international "atomic pool" plan. Inclusion of Peiping in Soviet offer suggests that nucleus of some such Moscow-sponsored international combine is now in making.**

C. As means of soothing Satellite discontent over Soviet exploitation of their resources in nuclear field.

- 1. Except for token shipments of radioactive isotopes, Orbit states have received virtually nothing in kind in return for raw materials. This has been resented.**
- 2. None of Orbit states has been able get Soviet scientific aid in nuclear field, despite eagerness for programs of own.**
 - a. USSR has not allowed any Orbit state to build research reactor or even adequate research tools (such as cyclotrons).**
 - b. East German scientists, at least, are bitter about this.**

III. USSR has already said it is considering expansion of its "material and know-how" offer to include additional countries.

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- A. Such expanded offer will probably not only include other Orbit states but also non-Orbit nations--probably under-developed Asian countries where USSR is stressing offers of economic and technical assistance.

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USSR had offered Iran radioactive

isotopes, as well as unspecified research instruments.

2. Atomic offers of this kind would be one of the most dramatic propaganda moves Moscow could make.

3. Most likely target for such offers would be India.

USSR already trying to cast Indians in leading role in UN-sponsored conference on peaceful uses.

4. Moscow now has the capacity to back up such offers with the goods.

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